

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00207 202249Z

11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W
----- 071331

R 202140Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 692
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 207

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: JOE CLARK TREADS WATER IN QUEBEC
1. JOE CLARK TOLD SMALL MEETING OF QUEBEC CP CONSERVATIVE

PARTY MEMBERS ON EVENING AUGUST 18 THAT TIME NOT PROPITIOUS FOR P.C. TO ENTER QUEBEC PROVINCIAL POLITICS. IN HIS OPINION, UNION NATIONALE STILL PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLE AS PROVINCIAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY. CLARK REVEALED THAT HE HAD MEETING WITH UN LEADER RODRIGUE BIRON EARLIER IN WEEKS, BUT DODGED QUESTION ON ITS CONTENT. (WILL BE RECALLED THAT UN PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN Diefenbaker VICTORY IN 1958.)

2. PRUDENT IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE, INTER ALIA, CLARK SAID HE PREFERRED AWAIT OUTCOME OF TRIBUNAL BEFORE EXPRESSING OPINION ON AIR CONTROLLERS ISSUE. IN SMALL CONCESSION TO QUEBECOIS SENSIBILITIES, HE SAID, IF SECURITY WAS NOT ENDANGERED, HE COULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO BILINGUAL AIR TO GROUND COMMUNICATION IN QUEBEC. CLARK DEMURRED IN COMMENTING BIBEAU REPORT ON BILINGUALISM IN CIVIL SERVICE CLAIMING HE HAS NOT YET HAD TIME TO READ IT

3. ONE PARTY MEMBER WHO WAS PRESENT AT MEETING TOLD US THAT CLARK STILL ENGAGED IN ATTEMPT TO UNITE SQUABBLING FACTIONS OF QUEBEC WING OF HIS PARTY. THIS INFORMANT CHARACTERIZED MAIN DIVISION AS BEING BETWEEN THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE LONG CONTROLLED PARTY'S FINANCES AND YOUNGER PARTY ORGANIZATION
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WORKERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY MEETINGS, PARTY FACTIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUEBEC00207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760320-1150
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760834/aaaabcyl.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOE CLARK TREADS WATER IN QUEBEC
TAGS: PINT, CA, PC, CP, (CLARK, JOE)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
OTTAWA
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006